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## Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

One entry found for **inflammation**.

Thesaurus

Main Entry: **in·flam·ma·tion**

Pronunciation: "in-fl&- 'm&-sh&n

Function: *noun*

1 : a local response to cellular injury that is marked by capillary dilatation, leukocytic infiltration, redness, heat, and pain and that serves as a mechanism initiating the elimination of noxious agents and of damaged tissue

2 : the act of inflaming : the state of being inflamed

For **More Information on "inflammation"** go to **Britannica.com**

Get the **Top 10 Search Results for "inflammation"**

### Merriam-Webster Online

- ☒ Dictionary
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## inflammation



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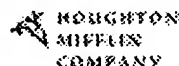
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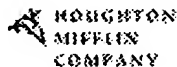


**[Dictionary](#)**

in·flam·ma·tion (in'flə-mā'shən)

*n.*

1. The act of inflaming or the state of being inflamed.
2. A localized protective reaction of tissue to irritation, injury, or infection, characterized by pain, redness, swelling, and sometimes loss of function.



## Thesaurus inflammation

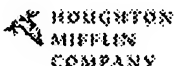
*noun*

An instance of being irritated, as in a part of the body: irritation, soreness. *See* help/harm/harmless.



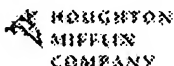
## Encyclopedia

**inflammation**, reaction of the body to injury or to infectious, allergic, or chemical irritation. The symptoms are redness, swelling, heat, and pain resulting from dilation of the blood vessels in the affected part with loss of plasma and leucocytes (white blood cells) into the tissues. White blood cells communicate with each other via cytokines, which are polypeptides released by cells of the immune system that regulate other cells. They are a broad class of soluble compounds that signal one cell type to another, particularly in response to foreign substances. Granulomas are most common in infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, leishmaniasis, and schistosomiasis, in which the body's defenses, unable to destroy the offending organisms, try to enclose them in a mass of inflammatory cells. Certain types of **inflammation** result in pus formation, as in an abscess. The leukocytes destroy harmful microorganisms and dead cells, preventing the spread of the irritation and permitting the injured tissue to repair itself.



## Health inflammation

The response of tissue to injury or infection. Pain, heat, redness, and swelling are the four basic symptoms of **inflammation**.



## Medical

in·flam·ma·tion (in'flə-mā'shən)

*n.*

A localized protective reaction of tissue to irritation, injury, or infection, characterized by pain, redness, swelling, and sometimes loss of function.

in·flame' *v.*



## WordNet

*Note: click on a word meaning below to see its connections and related words.*

The **noun inflammation** has 4 meanings:

Meaning #1: a response of body tissues to injury or irritation; characterized by pain and swelling and redness and heat

Synonyms: redness, rubor

Meaning #2: the state of being emotionally aroused and worked up

Synonyms: excitement, excitation, fervor, fervour

Meaning #3: arousal to violent emotion

Synonym: inflaming

Meaning #4: the act of setting on fire or catching fire

Synonyms: ignition, firing, lighting, kindling



### Wikipedia **inflammation**

**Inflammation** is the first response of the immune system to infection or irritation and may be referred to as the innate cascade. **Inflammation** is characterized by the following quintet: redness (*rubor*), heat (*calor*), swelling (*tumor*), pain (*dolor*) and dysfunction of the organs involved (*functio laesa*). The first four characteristics have been known since ancient times and are attributed to Celsus; *functio laesa* was added to the **definition of inflammation** by Rudolf Virchow in 1858.

### **Characteristics**

The redness and heat are caused by the increased blood supply to the affected area. Blood vessels are vasodilated upstream of an infection while capillary permeability to the affected tissue is increased, resulting in a loss of blood plasma. Vasoconstriction downstream of the infection further increases edema or swelling. The swelling distends the tissues, compresses nerve endings, and thus causes pain. The white blood cells or leucocytes take on an important role in **inflammation**; they extravasate from the capillaries into tissue, and carry on as phagocytes picking up bacteria and cellular debris. They may also aid by walling off an infection and preventing its spread.

If **inflammation** of the affected site persists, released cytokines IL-1 and TNF will activate endothelial cells to upregulate receptors VCAM, ICAM-1, E-selectin, and L-selectin for various immune cells. Receptor upregulation increases extravasation of neutrophils, monocytes, activated T-helper and T-cytotoxic, and memory T and B cells to the infected site.

### **Leukocytes and cytokines**

Various leukocytes are involved in the initiation and maintenance of **inflammation**. These cells can be further stimulated to maintain **inflammation** through the action of adaptive cascade through lymphocytes: T cells, B cells, and antibodies. These **inflammation** cells are:

- Mast cells which release histamine and prostaglandin in response to activation of stretch receptors. This is especially important in cases of trauma.
- Macrophages which release TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-1 in response to activation of toll-like receptors.

### Resolution

When **inflammation** subsides, the damaged tissue is repaired. Depending on the severity of the **inflammation** and the type of tissue involved repairs may or may not be complete; in minor inflammations of the skin, for example, the tissue is capable of complete regeneration whereas in nervous tissue regeneration may be more limited and the damaged cells may be replaced with scar tissue.

### Systemic inflammation

#### Sepsis

When **inflammation** overwhelms the whole organism, systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS) is diagnosed. When it is due to infection, the term sepsis is applied. Vasodilation and organ dysfunction are serious problems that may lead to death.

#### Low-grade

With the discovery of interleukins, another concept of *systemic inflammation* developed. Although the processes involved are identical, this form of **inflammation** is not confined to a particular tissue but involves the endothelium (lining of blood vessels) and many other organ systems. The role of systemic **inflammation** as a cause and/or result of insulin resistance and atherosclerosis is the subject of intense research. It has little direct bearing on clinical care.

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### Misspellings **inflammation**

#### Common misspelling(s) of **inflammation**

- inflammation



### Translations **Translations for: Inflammation**

Nederlands (Dutch)  
ontsteking, ontbranding

Français (French)

**inflammation, combustion****Deutsch (German)**

n. - Entzündung, Aufflammen, Aufstacheln

**Ελληνική (Greek)**

n. (ιατρ.) φλεγμονή, (μτφ.) έξαψη, παροξυσμός, ερεθισμός

**Italiano (Italian)**

combustione, infiammazione

**Português (Portuguese)**

n. - inflamação (f)

**Русский (Russian)**

воспламенение, воспаление

**Español (Spanish)**

n. - combustión, inflamación

**Svenska (Swedish)**n. - **inflammation**, upphetsning, antändning**中国话 (Simplified Chinese)**

n. - 怒火, 燃烧, 发火

**中國話 (Traditional Chinese)**

n. - 怒火, 燃燒, 發火

**日本語 (Japanese)**

n. - 点火, 燃烧, 燃え上がり, 炎症, 発火

**العربية (Arabic)**

(الاسم) التهاب, اشتعال

**עברית (Hebrew)**

n. - דלקת, הדלקה, שלהוב

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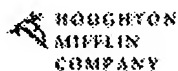
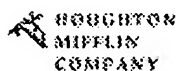
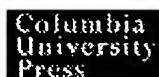
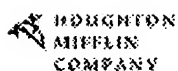
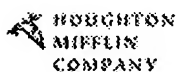
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